

Gulf Cove United Methodist Church
Helping Everyone Meet, Know, and Serve Jesus
Church Council Meeting
July 25, 2016 – 7:00 PM

Attendees:

Doreen Alvarez (Church Council Chairman)	Scott Folsom	Joan Priest
Pastor Mike Weaver	Betty Hansell	Ken Priest
Fred Boyer	Mary Hilton	Jeanne Shrout
Judy Boyer	JoAnn Hopkins	Rick Starck
	Skip Messenger	Dana Hanson

The meeting was opened with the lighting of the candle representing Jesus Christ, followed by a prayer by Doreen.

Reformatting of Meetings: Doreen advised that in the future, we will be keeping all Council meetings short & sweet. Each leadership team should be submitting either (1) a short email noting that the team did not meet that month, or (2) minutes of their meeting or activities, and concerns. The emails and/or minutes will be distributed further prior to Council meetings and it is expected that all will review them. Only items of concern (yellows or reds) should be addressed during Council meetings.

Corrections to Previous Minutes: By email dated 5/27/2016, a change was made to the 5/23/2016 minutes; they were initially distributed on 5/24/2016. The following paragraph is the correct paragraph to be used as the last paragraph under the “Finance” section of the 5/23/2016 minutes:

Jeanne and Joan both spoke with Rev. Mike this week. His parents live in Fort Myers, and they prefer to stay with them until the parsonage is ready – not in a temporary rental property. Neither he nor Kelly mind the commute. He has done it before and is familiar with it. Kelly will be working in Punta Gorda and at Bayfront Hospital in Port Charlotte. However, since the incoming church pays for the incoming pastor's moving expenses, if the parsonage is not ready fairly quickly, it could be costly for GCUMC as we will be paying for storage fees of their furniture. It is hoped that, if Rev. Mike and his family have to stay with his parents, the stay will be as short as possible.

TEAM CONCERNS

Nurture: In the absence of Gretchen Leppla and Sandy Doty, Doreen advised that neither *Education* nor *Small Groups* had any meetings since Council met in May.

Joan advised that Holly and Pastor Mike talked about a curriculum for the children’s *Sunday School* program. Holly is proposing we use a program called “Whirl,” that goes along with the lectionary. Pastor Mike is familiar with this program and said it allows us to build on it. More information on the program can be found at <http://wearesparkhouse.org/kids/whirl/>. Pastor Mike said Gretchen is aware of this potential change.

It was mentioned that the Nominations Committee should also be looking for an individual to chair the *Caring Ministry*.

Outreach: With regard to *Vacation Bible School*, Doreen advised it is going well, and it has only two more Wednesdays to go.

Alfred Current emailed that he could not attend this evening's meeting. He stated that the Scouts are doing well. With regard to *Myakka River Elementary School* (he did not mention Vineland), he would like to offer a breakfast or lunch to the teachers as a back-to-school welcome, and he asked from where the funds might come. Dawn Tesauro responded that the Outreach Fund currently has \$5,952.12, but there is no "elementary school" or similar account from which to draw. Our elementary school program was questioned as to whether we are doing it to obtain a return via increased membership/attendance, or are we doing it to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Most who expressed a thought intimated they felt our presence in the community is enhanced by our relationship. We have also received recognition from Myakka for our assistance, including being mentioned in the newspaper when articles about Myakka are printed. Pastor Mike said in his mind, we are not "recruiting" as much as we are saying "we love you."

Scott said he had a marvelous trip to *Cuba* to help with Camp Canaan, which includes children and youth up to 26 years old. He advised that the Cuban churches, including Nicaro, are excited and waiting for August. They have all received word that clean water is coming!

Witness: Donna Wallace, chairman of the *Worship* committee, is still out of town. Pastor Mike said all is going well. Doreen said there has been discussion recently about having another "theme" shaped by our Dream Team; i.e., to have another large sermon series with a theme and special decorations.

A special "*Thank You*" was sent to *Bobbie Indermaur* for being our pianist during the recent 8:00am service!

Support: *Finance* reports for the month of June have been distributed. The big difference this year is that we have already pulled \$4,000 out of the Reserve Fund. This compares to last year when a total of \$6,000 was used, all of it in July. (Dana mistakenly said \$8,000 was used during 2015.) The Finance "yellow/red" is the necessity to dip into the Reserve Fund so early in the year. It is prayed that we will not have to use an entire months' worth of funds. Part of the problem is arising because some individuals are not returning to Florida; instead, they are staying close to family that reside up north.

With regard to *Trustees*, Skip said the parsonage renovation is finished. He has not yet received any final figures from the contractor, but believes the total is close to \$48,000. Ken specifically wanted to convey his "*Thank You*" to the 20 individuals who helped with the clean-up on Friday, July 22. They did a fantastic job!

Skip advised that he needs to rework the Trustees' budget, since the previously-received rent enabled them to pay for some expenses. That income is no longer available and creates a shortfall. Their major "red" at this time is the exterior walls of a couple portables which need new vinyl siding because they may be falling apart in the not-too-distant future. In addition, our recent experience with electricity (especially the soundboard which was fried) has resulted in a pushed need for quality surge protectors.

Skip explained that if something needs to be repaired, a Work Order is submitted. If the cost is expected to be over \$100, it must go to thru the trustees. They decide who will do it (i.e., Mike

Lackney or one of our congregants, or if someone must be hired). The next Trustees meeting will be Tuesday, August 9, at 6:45pm.

Doreen provided certain account balances as of 5/31/2016. As of 6/30/2016, those balances are:

\$15,917	Facility Up Keep #320.028
33,195	Reserve Fund #100.102
1,250	Church Property Taxes #320.024
1,624	Parsonage & Oaks Cove Taxes #320.040
8,300	Air Conditioning Fund #320.007

Regarding Staff Parish, Joan advised a meeting is scheduled for August 1. Staff evaluations should be finished soon. She said about 2/3 of the moving expense was paid by donations, and the rest will come from the Reserve Fund. A retired pastor from Pastor Mike's prior church also gave \$500 toward Pastor Mike's moving expenses. *Thank you, Sir!*

OLD BUSINESS

Facility Expansion: Rick said the team is looking for a new leader. One should be selected at their next meeting. They have mainly been waiting for Pastor Mike's "readiness" to become involved with the team.

Lay Nominations: This committee has been tabled for several months, waiting for Pastor Mike's arrival. Some of the main positions they need to fill include a leader for the Caring Ministry, more people to assist Alfred Current in Outreach, and the usual spots that come up during the fall. Pastor Mike asked for "this person would be good for that position" suggestions. Our spiritual gifts assessments are still available for consultation.

"NEW" BUSINESS

Doreen reminded us that, as stated in Council's 4/25/2016 minutes, an individual should be sought to fill a new volunteer position -- Evangelism Coordinator:

Outreach is being the hands and feet of Christ, whereas an Evangelism Coordinator helps others to become the hands and feet of Christ. Hence this position would be separate from Outreach. The Lay Nominations committee will seek an Evangelism Coordinator, whose duties should include:

- Develop Fresh Expression plans to go out to where the unchurched are.
- Coordinate acknowledgment of first-time guests.
- Coordinate pew captains.
- Organize visitation of first-time guests.

Doreen said John Furtado recently reviewed the spiritual gifts assessments, and according to those results, only two individuals who have taken the survey in our church have evangelism as a spiritual gift. In addition, we also need a discipleship plan – what are we going to do when people start coming, or come back, to church? How do we get them plugged in?

Pastor Mike advised that with regard to new members and small groups, differing levels of small groups should be available. A new Christian will require different input than a new member who has been a Christian for a long time. For example, the *Alpha* program is geared toward new Christians, while programs like *Disciple* appeal to those who have a more extensive Christian background.

Joan opined that a non-threatening, get-to-know-you class, comprised of the pastor and others from the congregation, could be beneficial to perform primarily a “welcoming” gesture without commitment.

ADJOURNING

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55pm with communion and a prayer by Pastor Mike. The next Church Council meeting will be held on Monday, August 22, 2016 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Hanson
Recording Secretary